

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01048 290937Z

11
ACTION NEA-10

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R 290815Z JUL 76
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TO USDOC WASHDC
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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQI PREFAB HOUSING MARKET

REF: USDOC 12274

1. WE KNOW OF NO PENDING CONTRACT FOR 20,000 PREFAB HOUSES.
PROJECT MOST NEARLY MEETING THIS DESCRIPTION IS CONTRACT AWARDED
BY THE RURAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION A FEW MONTHS AGO TO THE
FRENCH FIRM CAMUS FOR FOUR PREFAB HOUSING FACTORIES (CAPACITY
10,000 A YEAR).

2. THERE HAS BEEN, NONETHELESS, SOME IRAQI INTEREST IN THIS
AREA IN RECENT WEEKS. STATE ORGANIZATION FOR INDUSTRIAL DESIGN
AND CONSTRUCTION (SOIDC) AN MAY-JUNE ASKED TWO DIFFERENT VISITING US
BUSINESSMEN TO BID ON PILOT PROJECT OF FIFTY PREFAB HOUSES,
BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOIDC HAS TAKEN NO DECISION AS YET.
IN ADDITION SEMIOFFICAL NEWSPAPER BAGHDAD OBSERVER A FEW DAYS AGO
CARRIED PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW
"DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR THE PREFABS GENERAL (SIC) ESTABLISHMENT",
A PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN BUREAUCRATIC ENTITY.

3. WHEN CURRENT GOI FREEZE ON LETTING NEW CONTRACTS IS LIFTED,
WE BELIEVE IRAQ MAY OFFER SIZEABLE POTENTIAL MARKET FOR PREFAB
HOUSING. ONE ESTIMATE PUTS NEED AT AROUND 120,000 HOUSING
UNITS A YEAR FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS OR MORE. MOREOVER, "BUILDING
AND SERVICES" SECTOR OF NOW OUTDATED (BUT MOST RECENT AVAILABLE)
VERSION OF 1976-80 FIVE YEAR PLAN LISTS HOUSING PROJECTS TOTALLING
ABOUT 150 MILLION IRAQI DINARS, OR 510 MILLION DOLLARS.

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4. WE WILL, OF COURSE, REPORT ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA.

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